National Association of Hispanic Journalists
Board of Directors Special Meeting
Saturday August 22, 2026
12:00 PM ET - 11:00AM CT - 9:00AM PST
Location: Virtual

I. Call to Order

President Dunia Elvir
Call to order at 12:09PM ET

II. Roll Call

Secretary Jackie Padilla

Roll Call

Present:

- Dunia Elvir - President
- Julio Cesar Chavez Andino - VP of Broadcast
- Jaime Cardenas - VP of Online
- Nancy Martinez Preyor-Johson VP of Print
- Jackie Padilla - Secretary
- Carlos Rodriguez- Financial Officer
- Pedro PJ Cabrera - Academic at-Large
- Harvey Cabassa- Region 1,
- Kim Hass- Region 2,
- Samantha Rivera -Region 4,
- Jessica Elizarraras - Region 5,
- Blanca Rios -Region 6,
- Cristy Fajardo - Region 8,
- Genesis Samayoa-Hidalgo- Officer at large
- Jose Cancela - Spanish at Large

Absent:Nicole Roesler- Student- Student Representative, Karina Cuevas - Region 3, Robert Nino - Region 7

Guests- Yaneth Guillen, Gilbert Bailon & Carolina Astrain

III. Welcome - President Dunia Elvir

Dunia thanked everyone for making the time to attend this special meeting, emphasizing how important it is to come together and discuss the challenges facing the 2027 conference due to the change in the NABJ conference dates.

IV. 2027 Conference Update- President, Dunia Elvir

Dunia confirmed that NABJ confirmed that it will not adjust its 2027 conference dates. Dunia shared that on July 21, 2026 she spoke with Errin Haines, NABJ president during our conference in New Orleans, and Yaneth spoke with Nathaniel Chambers, the NABJ interim executive director. The response was not in favor of changing any of the dates.

It was clarified that a poll was taken at a messaging meeting on July 21, 2026 during the conference, where each board member was asked for their date preference, which were documented and taken into consideration.

V. Details about the 2027 conference's date - Executive Director, Yaneth Guillén-Díaz

Yaneth thanked the executive board for creating this meeting. She delivered a brief update on upcoming 2027 plans. Given the conflict, the option that causes the least disruption for our members and NAHJ as a whole, the recommendation was to move NAHJ's 2027 conference dates to Aug 29-Sept 4. A contract has not been finalized.

Dunia said this meeting was important to ensure all board members were informed. She explained that besides talking about this topic during our executive session on July 21, 2026 and messaging meeting, the executive board had three meetings (two of them with Yaneth Guillen-Diaz and one with Chris Vachon) before presenting Aug 29-Sept 4 as the recommended dates.

VI. Public Questions & Comments

PJ Cabrera asked about a timeline to share with members– Yaneth explained that formal details will be delivered once contracts are finalized. Blanca Rios asked about any additional formal votes on this matter. Dunia reminded the board that everyone was polled on their date preferences during a messaging meeting on July 21, 2026 the conference in 2026, but if the board wanted a new vote we should do it.

After discussion a formal vote was requested by Jaime Cardenas.

Jose Cancela made a motion to vote on the new dates for Aug 29-Sept 4.
Jaime Cardenas seconded the motion.

Julio Cesar Chavez abstained. The rest of the board voted in favor.

The motion passed for Yaneth to continue efforts for the 2027 conference dates to land within that time range and signing an agreement with the hotel ASAP to try to avoid financial losses for NAHJ.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37CST